



File Code: 2210
Date: April 20, 2011

Peart Ranch LLC
c/o Dan Peart
P.O. Box 128
Randolph, UT 84064

Dear Permittee;

Enclosed are your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the **Deer Creek and Manning Creek S&G Allotments**. These Instructions are guidelines for managing your allotment during the 2011 grazing season. We have also included your **Actual Use Form, which should be completed and returned with the folder to the Montpelier Ranger District by November 30, 2011.**

I. Livestock Management:

Permittee	Permitted	Season of use
Peart Ranch LLC (Dan or Donna)	1300 ewe/lamb Variable season of use and numbers run in one band on both allotments	July 1 –October 5

II. Grazing Management:

Generally, open loose herding and once-over-light grazing should be practiced. Bed grounds, shade-up areas, and salting locations should not be used more than once during the grazing season. Sheep should not be allowed to shade up within 100 feet of stream areas and salt should never be placed closer than 300 feet from developed or natural water. Do not use developed water sources more than 7 days during the grazing season.

Standards and Guides covering the allotments are found in the *2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou National Forest (RFP)* and the *Caribou National Forest Riparian Grazing Implementation Guide (GIG)* and are now made part of your permit. The proper use standards/triggers for this allotment are listed in tables one and two below. Your livestock must be removed from an area when the allowable forage utilization levels are reached in either the uplands or the riparian areas. The utilization standards will apply to, both native and desirable non-native, key species. Stubble heights, on riparian areas, will have to be adjusted to meet percent utilization standards if non-native species such as red-top or Kentucky blue grass are monitored. Monitoring of use will include using utilization cages, utilization scales/gauges, ocular estimates or a combination of these three.



Table 1. Riparian Zone Forage Utilization and Stubble Heights from GIG. (AIZ)

Season of Use	Properly Functioning Condition (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (High to Moderate) (%/Stubble Height)	Functioning at Risk (Low to Non Functioning) (%/Stubble Height)	Non Functioning (States C & D) (%/Stubble Height)
Spring	65/2	55/3	45/4	55/3
Summer	55/3	45/4	35/5	45/4
Fall	45/4	35/5	20/6+	35/5

Riparian Grazing protocol recommends the following:

1. Deer Creek, functioning at risk, requires a 5 inch stubble height in the AIZ at the end of the grazing season.
2. Manning Creek and Crow Creek, functioning at risk – summer 45%, fall 35% use on key species.

Utilization of upland vegetation will be based on percent of total weight grazed on key forage species. Monitoring will include using utilization cages, utilization scales, ocular estimates or a combination of these three. **Use on key grass species** such as Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Elytrigia* (Agropyron) *spicata*), and mountain brome (*Bromus carinatus*) or **key shrub species** such as sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*).

Table 2. Upland Forage Utilization Levels (given in percent)

Allowed Upland Forage utilization	Type of Upland Area		
	Critical Winter Range	Winter Range	Non Winter Range
Grasses and herbaceous Species (% dry weight)	35	45	55
Shrubs (Annual leader growth)	10	20	35

Upland utilization standards: Big game winter range key area transects will be established with Idaho Fish and Game participation on your low elevation pastures. Within the southern half of your allotments, wildlife winter range prescriptions have been identified in the Revised Forest Plan.

Proper use standards will be the determining factor in deciding if livestock are allowed to graze the entire season or must be removed early.

The following are some measures that you can take to reduce the impacts that may affect your operation:

- Monitor your allotment closely to ensure that allowable forage utilization is not exceeded.
- Properly maintain all water troughs and fences. Spring flows may be reduced making properly maintained troughs very important.
- Hauling water may also be needed where water sources are lacking to keep livestock scattered.

As the season progresses, Forest Personnel will be routinely checking range and forage conditions. If monitoring determines that there is a shortage of forage production, or other associated resources are sustaining unacceptable impacts, early removal of the livestock from the allotment will occur. If livestock are removed from the Forest early, your remaining grazing fees will be credited to next year's fees. You must request a refund in writing and fill out and sign a form from the District Office.

III. Range Improvement Maintenance Responsibility:

Annual maintenance of range improvements should be completed prior to the turnout of livestock.

IV. Range Improvement Projects:

Knapweed, Dyer's woad, and thistle are located on your allotment. When an opportunity exists, Dyer's woad can be mechanically treated. Please help us decrease the amount of dyer's woad on your allotment by pulling or digging the plant.

V. Trailing and/or Trucking Instructions:

Sheep may be trailed onto the allotment across Rock Creek on the Montpelier-Elk Valley Range Allotment. Trailing across other National Forest System lands administered by the Bridger Teton National Forest on both the Kemmerer and Grey's River Ranger Districts must be approved and coordinated with each of the respective Districts prior to trailing (spring and fall). The following outlines trailing requirements:

- Notify both the Kemmerer and Grey's River RD of the time and number of sheep at the Salt Flat corrals.
- NO MORE than 2 days to go from the Smith Fork Allotment (BLM) to the corrals, up to Spring Creek and across to the C-T border. This time limit is to allow trailing NOT grazing. The same 2 days will apply on your return trip to the BLM.
- On the return trip, both RD's will again be notified when the sheep will be trailing from the C-T to the corrals and off to the BLM.
- While at the corrals, all sheep will be kept in the corrals, not allowed to graze the adjoining area.
- Please alternate your approach to the corrals from the BLM and again from the corrals back to the BLM, i.e.; approach to the east of the corral coming and exit to the west of the corral going, AND THEN rotate the next year by approaching on the west side and exiting on the east side. Do not take the same approach/exit trail in the same year.

- Certified weed-free hay must be provided to all livestock while on the National Forest System Lands.

VI. Special Instructions:

- Please review the terms and conditions of your grazing permit.
- Please inform the Montpelier Ranger District (208-847-0375), especially during entry date, of a convenient time and place to enable an accurate count of livestock.
- Long-term riparian monitoring [Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM)] will be established along Deer Creek. This data will be used to determine if we are moving toward desired conditions.
- Be certain that your herder is aware of all unit and allotment boundaries, and that sheep are kept in the proper areas.
- Areas around sheep camps should be kept clean and trash packed out.
- Salt bags must be packed out.
- Leaving campfires unattended could result in a wildfire hazard. Camps should be equipped with a shovel and axe for putting out campfires. Salt grounds should not be within 300 feet of system trails or roads to avoid conflicts with other Forest users or within 300 feet of riparian areas including water developments. Salting should be designed to avoid conflicts with aspen regeneration and conifer plantations.
- **Actual Use Forms must be returned by November 30th following the grazing season. Failure to do so may result in Permit Action.**
- This year all AOI's will be posted on the internet. In conjunction with this action all permittees must sign the AOI showing that they have read it and accepted the terms, conditions, and management practices presented in it.

VII. Wolf Management:

As read on the Idaho Fish and Game web site 2/17/11
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/current.cfm>

Current Legal Status

August 5, 2010, wolf management south of Interstate 90 reverted to a section of the Endangered Species Act known as the 10(j) rule.

Simply put, the 10(j) rule allows states and tribes with approved wolf management plans some options to manage wolves to ensure the health of wild elk and deer herds. It also provides more flexibility to protect livestock and private property. The rule allows individuals on private or public land to kill a wolf that is in the act of attacking their stock animals (horses, mules, donkey, llamas, goats used to transport people and possessions) or dogs provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding or deliberate attractants of wolves. On land north of Interstate 90 in Idaho, or land administered by the National Park Service, wolves may be killed only to protect human life.

VIII. Multiple-use Coordination Requirements:

Livestock should be carefully managed to avoid or reduce conflicts with other resources and uses.

IX. Certified Weed Free Hay:

Certified weed free hay and other forages are required on the Forest. This may be more applicable to outfitters and guides, but is a reminder to the permittees.

If you have questions or concerns during the grazing season, please call me or the range staff on the zone.

	Office	Cell
Dennis Duehren District Ranger	(208) 847-8935	
Kevin Parker Supervisory Range Specialist	(208) 547-1108	(208) 313-7328
Jane Rushane Range Management Specialist	(208) 847-0375 (208) 847-8939	(208) 313 - 5683
Garth Nelson Range Management Specialist	(208) 547 - 1113	(208) 313 - 7910

Sincerely,

Dennis Duerhen
District Ranger

**Annual Operating Instructions
Deer Creek and Manning Creek S&G Allotments
Montpelier Ranger District
2011**



Accepted By:

_____/s/_____
Dan or Donna Peart

____4/29/2011____
Date

Approved By:

____/s/_____
**Dennis Duehren
District Ranger**

____5/19/2011____
Date

Manning Creek and Deer Creek S&G

